

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8760

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03335

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, VN

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF UK VOTE AGAINST PRG IN LAW OF WAR

CONFERENCE

REF: LONDON 1298 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE THANKING CHAPMAN OF SOUTHEAST ASIA DEPT, FCO, FOR UK HELP ON ISSUE OF PRG SEATING IN LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE, HE REPORTED THAT DRV HAD NOTED UK ACTION AND TAKEN RETALIATORY ACTION. SPECIFIC MEANS OF EXPRESSING DRV DISPLEASURE WAS AFP STORY FROM HANOI ATTRIBUTED TO AUTHORITATIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE SOURCE - ACTUALLY FOREIGN MINISTER TRINH.

2. STORY SAID THAT RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, JAPAN AND UK ARE UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY BY DRV BECAUSE OF VOTES IN LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. STORY WENT ON TO SAY THAT UK REPRESENTATIVE FAWCETT WAS NOT BEING ALLOWED TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS

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DENTIALS BECAUSE UK IS SLAVISHLY FOLLOWING U.S. LINE ON

PRG - THAT DRV VIEWS FAWCETT ONLY AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.
THIS IS MOST DISTASTEFUL TO HMG BECAUSE FAWCETT DESIG-
NATION AS AMBASSADOR AND DRV AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN ANNOUN-
CED PUBLICLY.

3. CHAPMAN DOES NOT EXPECT THAT HMG WILL MAKE AN ISSUE
OF FAWCETT DESIGNATION FOR SOME MONTHS. IF FORTHCOMING
ECAFE CONFERENCE REQUIRES ANOTHER NEGATIVE VOTE BY UK ON
PRG, HOWEVER, DRV MAY FEEL CONSTRAINED TO TAKE HARSHER
ACTION AGAINST FAWCETT.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, CHAPMAN ASKED FOR U.S. VIEWS ON
USEFULNESS OF CONTINUING UK REPRESEN-
TATION IN HANOI. HE SAID THAT UK HAS ALMOST NO BI-LATERAL
REQUIREMENT FOR MAINTAINING A MISSION BUT HAS HOPED IT
WAS USEFUL TO U.S. TO HAVE A WESTERN PRESENCE THERE. IF
USG SEES NO VALUE IN UK REPRESENTATION AND IF DRV CON-
TINUES TO BE DIFFICULT ABOUT FAWCETT DESIGNATION HMG
MIGHT WELL BE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW ALL REPRESENTATIVES.
PLEASE GIVE GUIDANCE FOR ANSWER TO CHAPMAN ON THIS POINT.

SOHM

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